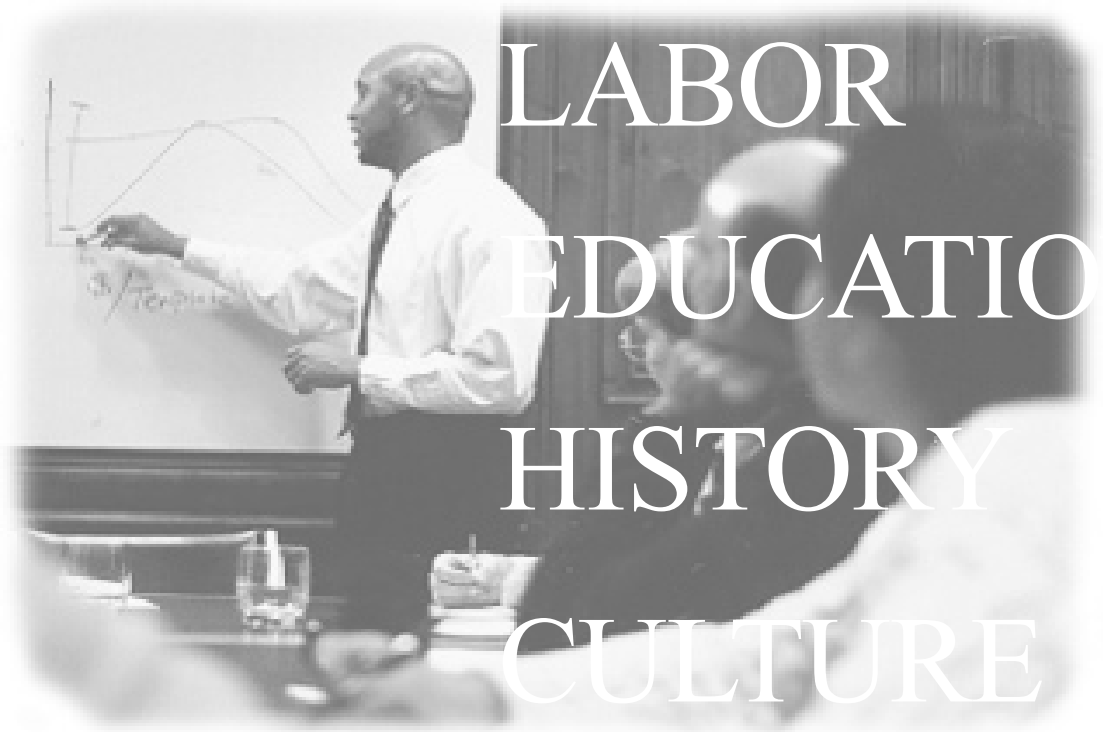


DESOTO



PARISH

“...the health of a community is a shared responsibility of many entities, organizations and interests in the community, including health services delivery organizations, public health agencies, other public and private entities and the people of a community.”

– Institute of Medicine. 1996. *Healthy Communities: New Partnerships for the Future of Public Health*. National Academy Press. p. 12



DeSoto Parish

DeSoto Parish Tourist Bureau

210 S. Washington Ave.
P.O. Box 1327
Mansfield, LA 71052
318-872-1177

Regional Office of Public Health

Jerre Perry, Regional Administrator
Northwest Regional Office
1525 Fairfield Ave., Rm. 569
Shreveport, LA 71101-4388
318-676-7489
318-676-7560 fax

History¹

DeSoto, which includes land from both Caddo and Natchitoches parishes, became a parish on April 1, 1843. The name honors Hernando DeSoto, the Spanish explorer who discovered the Mississippi River in 1541. The first colonists were subjects of France and Spain, who later became citizens of the Republic of Texas. On the Sabine River, the Waterloo community seems to have existed since Louisiana became a state in 1812. The site probably shifted somewhat when Dr. Logan established the ferry crossing called Logan Port, which changed to Logansport in 1848. The progressive city of Mansfield serves as the seat of government and the industrial, business, and medical center for the area.



Culture and Recreation³

DeSoto Parish is located on the mouth of the Sabine River and at the beginning of the Toledo Bend Lake. The Louisiana Blueberry Festival is held the fourth weekend in June on the courthouse square in downtown Mansfield. River City Fest is held the first weekend in May in downtown Logansport. Duel on the Border is held in Logansport on the Toledo Bend Reservoir, in which drag boats race down the river at speeds up to 200 mph. In addition to festivals, visitors enjoy the Mansfield State Commemorative Area; the historic Rock Chapel, built in 1891; and the original Log Courthouse built in 1843. It is the only surviving courthouse of its kind in the state.

Parish Seat¹ Mansfield¹

Major Cities (over 5,000 population)²

Mansfield
1990 5,389
1997 (estimate) 5,486

Parish Population²

1990 25,346
1997 (estimate) 25,406

Breakdown of 1996 population (estimates)⁶

White 54%
African American 46%
Other 0%
Male 47%

Female	53%
Population age 0-4	8%
Population age 65 & over	15%

Geography and Statistics²

Average elevation	330 ft.
Land area in square miles	877.3
Water area in square miles	17.3

Climate²

Average temperatures	
Annual	65°
January	51°
July	80°
Annual average rainfall	65.6 in.

Labor Force (1995)¹

Civilian	12,430
Employed	11,530
Unemployed	73
Unemployment	7.3%

Agriculture¹

Forestry

Colleges/Universities²

(within one hour commute)

Bossier

Bossier Parish Community College

Shreveport

Centenary College

Louisiana State University

Southern University

Public Libraries⁵ 4**Educational Attainment (1990)⁷**

Less than 5th grade	5.3%
High school graduate or higher	64.0%
Some college or higher	25.9%
Bachelor's degree or higher	9.5%

Major Employers (Products) and Number of Employees²**Private Employers**

International Paper (Linerboard)	430
Louisiana Pacific Corporation (Plywood)	356
Hendrix Manufacturing Company, Inc. (Dragline/Buckets)	150

Public Employers

DeSoto Parish School System (Education)	650
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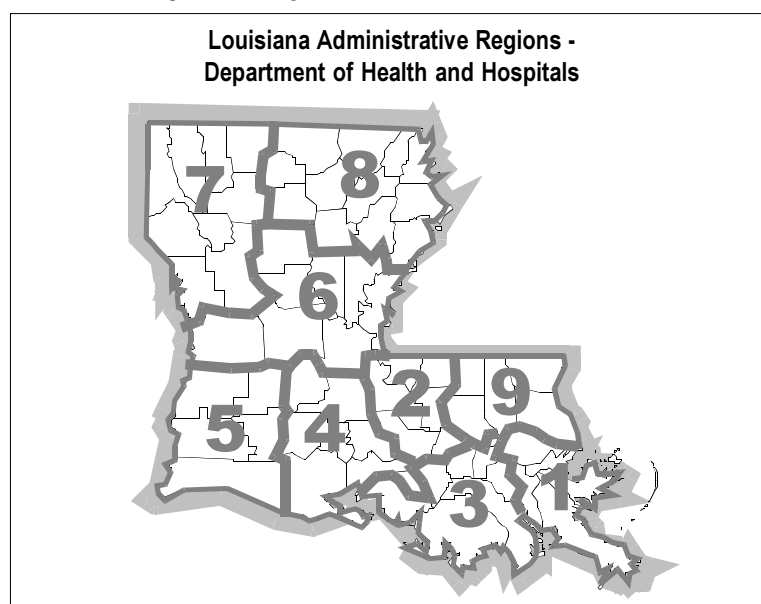
Poverty and Income

Persons in poverty (1995) ⁷	25.2%
Children under age 18 in poverty ⁷	36.6%
Per capita income (1996) ⁸	\$17,421



References

- ¹ Louisiana Almanac. 1997. Louisiana Almanac, Pelican Press. Gretna, LA
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- ³ Louisiana Office of Tourism. 1998. keywords: regional information <http://www.crt.state.la.us/crt/tourism.htm>
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- ⁵ State Library of Louisiana. keyword: directories <http://smt.state.lib.la.us/>
- ⁶ U.S. Bureau of the Census. 1998. Population Estimates. 1998. keywords: parish name <http://www.census.gov/datamap/www/22.html>
- ⁷ U.S. Bureau of the Census. 1998. keywords: people, poverty, small area income and poverty estimates <http://www.census.gov>
- ⁸ U.S. Department of Commerce, Economics and Statistics Administration. 1999. keywords: economics and statistical administration <http://www.doc.gov>.



Region 1

Jefferson
Orleans
Plaquemines
St. Bernard

Region 2

Ascension
East Baton Rouge
East Feliciana
Iberville
Pointe Coupee
West Baton Rouge
West Feliciana

Region 3

Assumption
Lafourche
St. Charles
St. James
St. John
St. Mary
Terrebonne

Region 4

Acadia
Evangeline
Iberia
Lafayette
St. Landry
St. Martin
Vermilion

Region 5

Allen
Beauregard
Calcasieu
Cameron
Jefferson Davis

Region 6

Avoyelles
Catahoula
Concordia
Grant
LaSalle
Rapides
Vernon
Winn

Region 7

Bienville
Bossier
Caddo
Claiborne
DeSoto
Natchitoches
Red River
Sabine
Webster

Region 8

Caldwell
East Carroll
Franklin
Jackson
Lincoln
Madison
Morehouse
Ouachita
Richland
Tensas
Union
West Carroll

Region 9

Livingston
St. Helena
St. Tammany
Tangipahoa
Washington